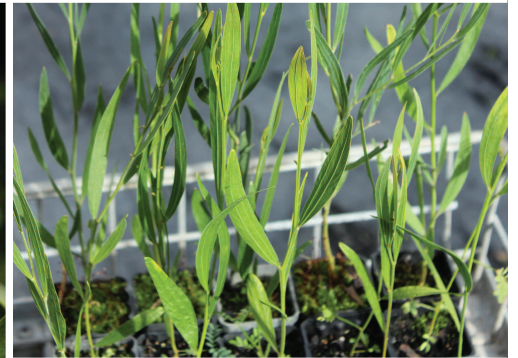


# Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph (above): John Gregurke

## Hop Wattle

*Acacia stricta*

### FAST FACTS

#### Shrub

Family:	Mimosaceae
	Wattle
Size:	3m H x 2m W
Position:	Lightly shaded
Soil:	Well watered
Flowers:	Pale yellow globules
Fruits:	Pods
Care:	Tip prune

**Hop Wattle** (*Acacia stricta*), is a fast growing Australian native shrub from the Ballarat area that makes a good windbreak under taller trees.

**Location:** It can grow into quite a large shrub – 3m high by 2m wide – over the next 5 years or more if given plenty of water, so be sure to allow room for growth. The Hop Wattle is fairly robust but prefers a slightly shaded, well watered position.

**Leaves:** Unusually for wattles, the narrow pale green leaves tend to be held upright.

**Flowers:** Hop Wattle flowers are a delicate yellow colour and form fluffy globular heads scattered amongst the leaves towards the end of each branch.

**Planting:** Hop Wattle will grow really well in your garden if planted within a few days of purchase in a hole not much larger than

the pot. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it. Make sure that the soil doesn't dry out too much over summer.

**Care:** Pruning isn't necessary, however the Hop Wattle will look better if given a light trim each year after the flowers have finished. A tip-prune taking off the flowering part of each stem will keep the plant more compact and encourage it to form a denser, more showy shrub next year.

**Propagation:** Hop Wattle grow well from seed collected over summer. The seed germinates best if you first crack the hard seed-coat by soaking it in a cup of freshly boiled water. Just pour on the hot water and let it sit until cool. Sprinkle the seed on some damp potting mix, cover with some more mix (a couple of millimetres) and keep it moist.